

HUMAN EQUALITY.

[Supplemental to "A man's a man, for a' that."]

BY WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON.

THERE is no king by right divine
To rule and reign, and a' that ;
No princely rank, nor lordly line —
EQUALITY, for a' that !
For a' that, and a' that,
Dynastic power, and a' that ;
A common birthright crowns us all
With liberty, for a' that.

Let fools and upstarts boast they find
In ancestry, and a' that,
A higher place to them assigned —
Mankind are one, for a' that !
For a' that, and a' that,
A pompous air, and a' that ;
It matters not how born or bred,
We're of one blood, for a' that !

Though woman never can be man,
By change of sex, and a' that,
To equal rights, 'gainst class or clan,
Her claim is just, for a' that !
For a' that, and a' that,
Her Eden slip, and a' that ;
In all that makes a living soul
She matches man, for a' that !

She asks no favors at his hands,
On bended knee, and a' that ;
She is his peer where'er he stands,
In spite of sex, and a' that.
For a' that, and a' that,
Fair play for her, and a' that,
In all the grave concerns of life —
This is her due, for a' that.

In every land, through every age,
How hard her lot, and a' that !
A vassal state her heritage,
Dependent, poor, and a' that.

For a' that, and a' that,
Most deeply wronged, and a' that ;
Though subjugated from her birth,
She still aspires, for a' that !

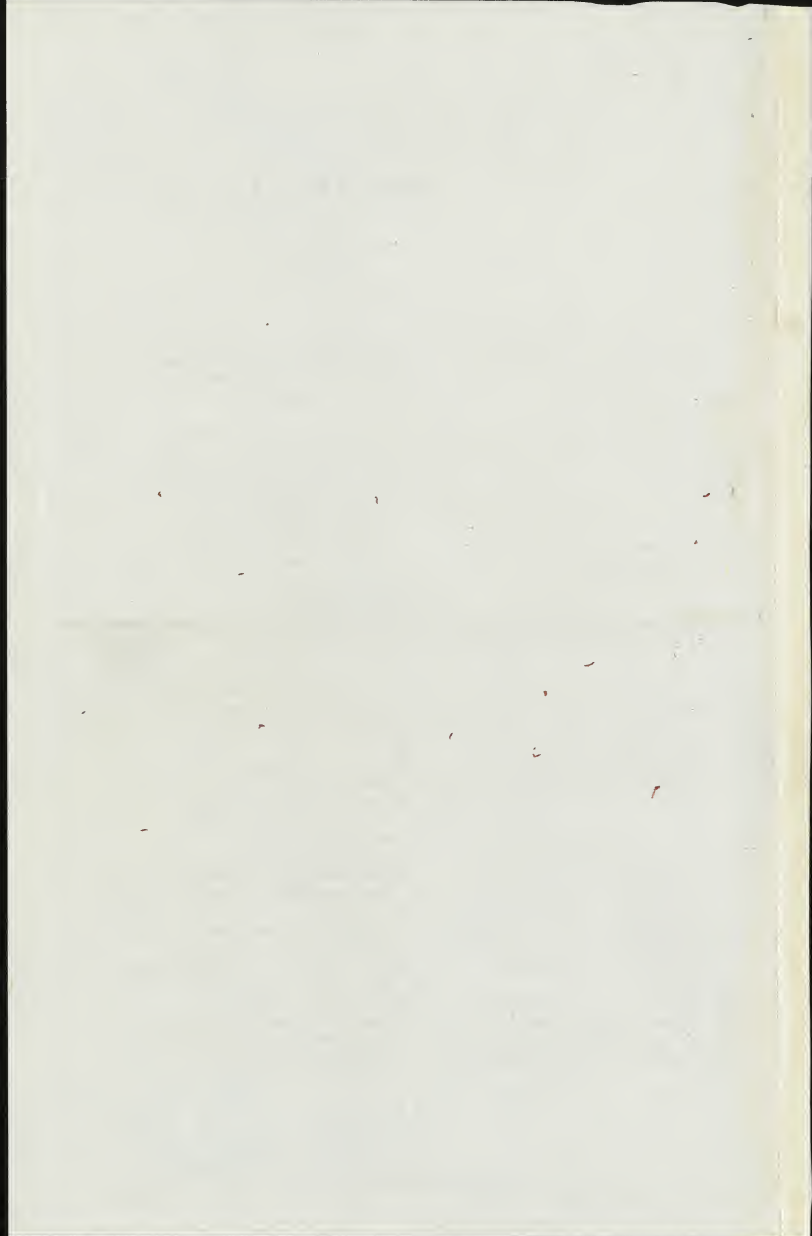
Oh, woe for man, proud arbiter !
And judgments sore, and a' that ;
For Heaven's displeasure they incur
Who crush the weak, and a' that.
For a' that, and a' that,
Injustice vile, and a' that :—
All noble souls will woman aid
To gain her cause, for a' that !

Down with all barriers that prevent
Her culture, growth, and a' that —
Her rightful share in government,
In Church and State, and a' that !
For a' that, and a' that,
"Her proper sphere," and a' that ;
Whatever right a man may claim,
Belongs to her, for a' that !

Soul is the complement of soul,
And sex of sex, for a' that ;
Each is included in the whole,
The whole in each, for a' that.
For a' that, and a' that,
Full liberty, and a' that,
For manhood and for womanhood,
By grace of God, for a' that !

Then hail the day, come when it may,
As come it will, for a' that,
When woman's worth, o'er all the earth,
Shall honored be, for a' that !
For a' that, and a' that,
Co-equal, free, and a' that ;
Through her enfranchisement our race
Shall nobly rise, for a' that !







Roxbury, Jan. 2, 1877.

Dear Miss Thayer:

Yes — it is a saying as true as it is ancient, "By their fruits ye shall know them"; and ever since our friendship began, you have met this test in the most satisfactory manner, both in the spirit and in the letter. And you gave me a fresh illustration of it yesterday, in your kind note — I mean in regard to a literal rendering of the passage — accompanied by some nice and very acceptable oranges from South Carolina; for all which accept my thanks, with the warm greetings and best wishes of the new year, in which my dear boy Frank heartily joins. We found the oranges as gratifying to the taste as they were handsome in form, size, and color. How happens it that the apple, and not the orange, is supposed to have been the forbidden fruit in the Garden of

Eden? Or, rather, if it be not a fruitless inquiry, how happens it that a myth so very absurd and so palpably fictitious should have been received as an actual occurrence by so many generations of mankind, and made a theological basis for the doctrine of total depravity, vicarious atonement, the trinity, everlasting punishment, and the like? Not even Milton's sublime poetical genius can make the story of Adam and Eve anything more than a freak of the imagination, unsupported by reason, and bordering closely upon the extreme of human credulity. Seeing how that story has been used to perpetuate the subjugation of woman to the will of man for thousands of years, and that the yoke is not yet broken, it is time for her, at least, to take "a new departure" in the matter of scriptural interpretation, and to assert her equality with man by creation and destiny, anything in any book to the contrary notwithstanding.

But this is "heresy"; and though I am sure it will not be alarming or distasteful to you, I will not pursue the theme. You see what comes from sending me those five oranges!

And they are fresh from South Carolina! Let us be glad that any good thing can come from such a State, though it be the product of Divine skill and power, and not of her own creation. She is still haughty, oppressive, relentless toward her poor colored population, traitorous in heart toward the national government, and with her passions "set on fire of hell," — the awful consequences of her brutal, degrading and impious slave system. Well, a just God has inseparably connected the reaping with the sowing, as a warning to the wicked and an incentive to the righteous. Would that the entire South could be lifted to a higher plane!

My kind regards to Mrs. Nichols.

Yours with the highest esteem,
Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

